

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11-13 are pending in the above-identified application. Support for the change to claims 1, 6 and 13 is based on the disclosure of embodiments of the present invention including a core diameter of 40.2 mm (cf. page 13, line 10 of the specification) and a golf ball diameter of 42.7 mm (cf. page 19, line 8 of the specification) with the use of the following calculation: $(42.7 - 40.2) \times 1/2$.

Issues under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu '358 (US 5,908,358) in view of Iwami '824 (JP 2002-07824). This rejection is traversed based on the following reasons.

Distinctions over Cited References

The present invention is directed to a golf ball which has, among other features, a cover with a thickness of 0.2 to 1.25 mm as recited in present claims. As explained in the present specification at page 10, lines 2-9, the golf ball of the present invention employs a cover having a thickness which is less than conventional golf ball covers which typically have a golf ball cover thickness of 1.5 mm or greater. Employment of such a thin cover advantageously prevents the resilience from being lowered since a relatively soft polyurethane cover is employed.

Wu '358, as noted in the Office Action of December 16, 2008, discloses examples of golf balls in Table 1 at columns 7-8 which have covers that are about 1.27 mm in thickness or greater. Wu '358 fails to disclose any suggestion or basis for a motivation to one skilled in the art to modify the golf ball cover thicknesses of the described embodiments so as to be reduced and fall within the presently claimed cover thickness range having a maximum thickness of 1.25 mm as in the present invention. Further, it does not appear from the machine translation of Iwami '824 that any particular golf ball cover thickness is described, such that Iwami '824 fails to make up for these deficiencies noted with respect to Wu '358. Accordingly, it is submitted that significant patentable distinctions exist between the present claims and both of Wu '58 and Iwami '824, whether these references are taken separately or hypothetically combined.

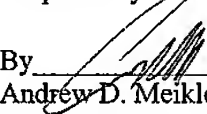
It is submitted for the reasons above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed in condition for allowance.

If any questions arise in the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 5, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Andrew D. Meikle
Registration No.: 32,868
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant